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FORTIETH YEAR—NO. 27 SALEM, OREGON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1917 PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS—FIVE CENTS

GERARD WAS FIRM REFUSING TO SIGN TREATY IN BERLIN

German Government Attempted to Coerce American Ambassador into Making Certain Concessions in Event of War—Threats Were Directed Against Americans in Order to Influence Action—Many Are Still Being Held Virtually as Hostages in Berlin—German Officials Now Make Near-Apologies for Treatment of Embassy

By Carl W. Ackerman,
(With Ambassador Gerard's Party at Berne)
Berne, via Paris, Feb. 12.—The German government intends to delay departure of Americans now in Berlin in order to have such citizens in hand for retaliatory measures in case America declares war and interns German citizens in the United States.

Permission for Americans eventually to depart was only obtained by the strong stand of Ambassador Gerard. From neutral soil today it is possible to reveal the pressure with the German government brought powerfully to bear on the American ambassador to force from him signing of a treaty which would practically guarantee the safety of German ships in American waters. Gerard persistently refused. He declined even to communicate such proposals to Washington unless he was granted freedom of confidential communication.

When the American correspondents in Berne went to Gerard in a body and told him of what they had heard, Gerard replied:

"I told Count Montgelas, Gerard said today, describing his interview with the German foreign office attache who put up to him the practical 'ultimatum' as to his signing of the treaty, 'that I'd sit there until kingdom come and not leave until all Americans were permitted free exit.'"

After this the Berlin officials granted passports to those desiring to leave with Gerard.

A large number of Americans still remain in Berlin and are anxious to leave, but the indications when the Gerard party left were that they would be delayed days and even weeks. The Berlin government, fearing that Americans may declare war, apparently desires to have a few American citizens within Germany on which retaliatory measures might be exacted in case Germans in America are interned.

Meanwhile the foreign office is striving to keep Africa out of the war—but the military party long ago prepared for American hostilities and is only lukewarm in its support of the statesman on the Wilhelmstrasse.

The general feeling of Americans left in Berlin was expressed by the young son of Davis Matley:

"If I ever get my feet on American soil again, I'll never take them off."

Gerard appeared worn out today, not only from the journey from Berlin but from the strain of the past events. He was warmly received by representatives of the Swiss government and the allies. Gerard plans to remain here for a few days and will then journey to Paris, from there going to Spain for the voyage to America. In the meantime he is communicating all details of the past week to Washington by code dispatches.

Judging from the foregoing dispatch and other messages from Carl W. Ackerman, received during the last few days, it seems likely that the action of the German government in delaying the

Gerard Has No Plans
London, Feb. 12.—His sailing plans not even tentatively made at Madrid, but safely out of Germany, Ambassador Gerard was supposed to be in Berne Switzerland, today, finishing the first stage of his journey homeward.

The ambassador and nearly two hundred other Americans, including his embassy staff, American consular officials and other American citizens, arrived at Zurich last night. They had intended remaining over in that city, but on learning that the American mission to Switzerland, Pleasant A. Stovall, had reserved accommodations at Berne, he left the special train furnished by the German government and took an ordinary train for Berne. The Swiss government accorded all possible honors to the resented envoy, sending a military escort. Gerard maintained strictest silence on his departure, refusing any comment whatever. Other dispatches received here, however, detailed something of the pressure to which the American ambassador was subjected while awaiting his passport from the Imperial German government.

What Germany Wanted
Germany was exceedingly anxious to obtain reaffirmation of the treaty of 1799, as amended in 1828, which grants citizens of America and Germany permission to remain nine months in those countries, following a declaration of war. Gerard resisted all efforts to have him affirm such a provision, holding that he no longer had authority from his government. It developed that what the German government really desired was a protocol, not only reiterating the old treaty provisions, but going further, in that it would specify citizens in both countries should be permitted to continue their businesses indefinitely, be protected from seizure and that patents should not be forfeited. One provision aimed direct to protect German ships in American harbors, exempted shipping from seizure and another was designed to guard against internment of citizens by either nation.

Copenhagen dispatches today insisted that when Gerard firmly refused to sign such a protocol, German officials retaliated with a barely concealed hint that certain Americans might be held in Berlin, presumably as hostages. At the same time Gerard was prevented from communicating with Washington by his code, plain messages only being permitted to pass.

ABE MARTIN

STEWED TOMATOES PLEASE
REHEATED CORNED BEEF PLEASE

See fellows spend half o' their lives tryin' t' hide a bald spot. There's lots o' difference between th' bald wagon an th' water wagon

PROMINENT ACTORS IN THE LEGISLATIVE DRAMA



COMMANDER OF INTERNED GERMAN BOAT IS DEFIANT

Warned Tug and Firemen Away While Vessel Was Burning at Dock

Honolulu, Feb. 6.—(By mail)—When the crew of the interned German cruiser Geier set fire to their vessel here Sunday in an attempt to destroy her, George Rodiek, the German consul in Honolulu stood on her deck and warned the commander of a naval tug coming to the rescue that if he or any of his men came aboard it would be "a hostile act."

This warning was sufficient to keep the tug away. Although the fires were discovered by the public and government authorities at 8 o'clock in the morning, Rodiek and Captain Grassoff, commanding the cruiser, did not surrender the Geier until 1:30 in the afternoon. Engines of the city fire department stood idle on pier 7 until just before the captain surrendered his ship.

At that time the flames were spreading so rapidly that the crew were forced to leave the vessel. The firemen did not succeed in subduing the blaze until 5 o'clock, after it had been burning nearly ten hours.

Investigation by United States officials of the disabling of eight German merchantmen interned here indicates that the damage to the ships will total \$500,000. Preparations were under way to sink the Pommern, largest of the

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BRYAN'S ACTIVITIES FOR PEACE ATTRACT NOTICE OF OFFICIALS

Propaganda Is Thoroughly Organized and Maintains Expensive Headquarters

Washington, Feb. 12.—Peace propaganda largely fostered by former Secretary of State Bryan and his friends had grown to an extent that attracted the attention of government heads today.

As one feature of a concerted drive to enlarge the peace spirit, two hundred women representing the "emergency peace federation," were booked to broader pacifism.

Meanwhile two big peace offices here with heavy corps of stenographers were shooting out peace letters, while peace propaganda telegrams poured into the White House and state department.

The whole situation distressed administration officials. They felt it manufactured more peace spirit—already large—and helped tie the government's hands in case it regarded was against Germany as necessary for preservation of American rights, honor and dignity.

Officials laid the German feeler of Saturday—suggestion of a United States-Germany conference to avoid war—directly to peace propaganda, while some authorities suggested that the hand of former Secretary of State Bryan was in the deal. Much as the govern-

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THIRTEEN LIVES LOST WHEN MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL BURNED TODAY

Bodies of Several Victims Believed To Be Buried In Ice-Coated Debris

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 12.—Thirteen lives are believed to have been lost in a midnight fire which destroyed the Kenwood hotel here.

Bodies of 12 of the victims are believed to be buried in the ice-encased debris of the hotel. The body of one other victim, a woman who died from injuries suffered when she jumped to the street from a third floor window, is at the morgue.

The blaze, which originated on the lower floor of the old stone structure, was discovered about 11:40 last night. Lives of 68 persons living in the building were imperiled by the flames, which caused a loss estimated at about \$35,000.

The known dead:

- Mrs. Lucille Squire, jumped from third floor, head crushed, died at hospital.
- Missing and believed dead:
- Mrs. ——— Van.
- Gladys Thurst.
- Dan Boone.
- Margaret Sheppard.
- William Britton.
- Mrs. Blanche Benson.
- Elmer Johnson.
- C. Lane.
- Unidentified man, Detroit, Mich.
- Agnes ———, char woman.

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MUCH WORK DONE AT SATURDAY SESSION

Many Measures Are Passed Upon During Sessions of Saturday

The senate having disposed of the Rogge river fishing bills, Nos. 248 and 266; the former making the use of seines unlawful and the latter increasing the length of the season for commercial fishing on the river near Grants Pass, concluded it had fought enough for one day, and settled down to the work of clearing its calendar, which it did by passing 12 senate and 13 house bills and killing none. With the seven bills passed in the morning the record for the day was a total of 23 bills passed. Several of these were of a local character and none of them of great importance, not enough at least to cause the senators to talk about them.

The bills were read, explained briefly by the chairman of the committee reporting them or the author of the bill, if originating in the senate, and after that the roll call and the president repeating the monotonous remark "the clerk will read the next bill."

Many Bills Passed.

- S. B. No. 299, by horticulture committee. Relative to appointment of county fruit inspectors.
- S. B. No. 280, by Houston. Providing for the safety and life of property in the construction and use of steam boilers.
- S. B. No. 175, by Leinenweber. To confer jurisdiction on justices of the peace.
- S. B. No. 267, by Hurley. Amending law relating to petitions to county board of equalization for reduction of assessments.
- S. B. No. 295, by Smith of Josephine. To protect mines in regard to wages.
- S. B. No. 151, by Shanks. To prevent and hear who feloniously causes death or disability of another from taking any beneficiary proceeds under policy of insurance.
- S. B. No. 186, by Orton. To provide

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ORVILLE WRIGHT WILL FIGHT FOR COUNTRY

Inventor of the Aeroplane Will Organize Aerial Army for United States

New York, Feb. 12.—Orville Wright, inventor of the aeroplane, announced today that in case of war with Germany he would abandon his private affairs and offer his services to the government to help organize an aerial army.

"While I could not duplicate Henry Ford's offer to manufacture war machines because I have disposed of my interests in the manufacturing end of the business," Wright told the United Press, "I certainly will do everything I can for the country."

"We have a pitifully small number of military and licensed civilian pilots to meet an emergency, but that need not trouble us a great deal if we meet the situation promptly."

"It does not take but about two weeks to develop and train a good military aerial observer. It takes two weeks more to make him a competent fighting man."

"As for the type of aerial defense, I would favor the small high climbing plane, light and unarmed except for a single gun."

"Every step in the European war's development of air craft has proved that it is the light, quick machine that can get up and down and around rapidly, that is the most effective. They can jump in and do their damage and get away while heavier planes are getting started."

"You can't combine weight and efficiency in aircraft. The heavily armed plane has been a failure and I think we will eventually come back to the smaller one. I know I am not always agreed with in this, but it is true, nevertheless."

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GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ISSUE

By Robert J. Bender
Washington, Feb. 12.—President Wilson today formally notified Germany that the United States government can enter into no negotiations tending to avert an armed clash between the two nations until the new U-boat decree is withdrawn.

The president's communication, sent through Swiss Minister Ritter, representing the German government in the United States, was made public at the state department after it had been admitted overtures have been received from the German government.

The government declared it would gladly discuss anything with Germany—but only in event Germany withdraws her U-boat decree of January 31 and renounces her pledges of May 4 last in the Sussex case.

The Swiss Statement
Washington, Feb. 12.—The state department this afternoon admitted that the German government is willing to negotiate with the United States, provided that the commercial blockade of England would not be interfered with.

In reply, this government said "it would gladly discuss with the German government any question it might propose for discussion," if it withdraws its U-boat decree.

In admitting that it had received a suggestion from the German government via the Swiss minister, the department gave out the following statement:

"In view of the appearance in the newspapers of February 11, of a report that Germany was initiating negotiations with the United States in regard to the submarine warfare, the department of state makes the following statement:

"A suggestion was made orally to the department of state late Saturday afternoon by the minister of Switzerland that the German government is willing to negotiate with the United States provided that the commercial

blockade against England would not be interfered with. At the request of the secretary of state this suggestion was made in writing and presented to him by the Swiss minister Sunday night. The communication is as follows:

"Memorandum—The Swiss government has been requested by the German government to say that the latter is, now as before, willing to negotiate, formally or informally, with the United States, provided that the commercial blockade against England will not be broken thereby."

"This memorandum was given immediate consideration and the following reply was dispatched yesterday:

"My dear Mr. Minister: I am requested by the president to say to you in acknowledging the memorandum which you were kind enough to send me on the eleventh inst., that the government of the United States would gladly discuss with the German government any question it may propose for discussion, were it to withdraw its proclamation of the 31st of January, in which, suddenly and without previous intimation of any kind, it cancelled the assurance which it had given the government on the fourth of May last, but that it does not feel that it can enter into any discussion with the German government concerning the policy of submarine warfare against neutrals which it is now pursuing unless and until the German government renounces its assurances of the fourth of May, and sets upon the assurance, I am, my dear minister, etc."

"To his excellency, Dr. Paul Ritter, minister of Switzerland."

"No other exchanges on this subject has taken place between this government and any other government or persons."

But so long as there is no break in diplomatic relations with gentle spring, we should worry—a whole lot less.

PLAN TO ARM MERCHANT SHIPS IS UNDER WAY

Reserve Guns of Navy Will Be Available Soon for This Purpose

MORE AMERICAN SHIPS IDLE AT NEW YORK DOCKS

More Toll of Allied Shipping Is Taken by German Submarine

By Carl D. Groat
(United Press staff correspondent)
Washington, Feb. 12.—Reserve guns of the United States navy—designed for use on merchant auxiliaries and submarine chasers—will probably be available soon to American shipowners who brave the German danger zones.

The navy department has a number of these guns, which, it is said today, could be condemned or even loaned directly, if necessary. They are just the type for merchant ships.

Officials admitted today that American merchant ships will have to depend upon the navy for any armament desired. President Franklin of the American line has notified the department he has been unable to get guns from any other source with which to arm his vessels.

Officials suggested that condemnation of the guns would make them available for ship lines without putting an official seal on the transfer.

While the state department has held the direct transfer could be made, there were signs today that the government desired to avoid making such armament appear to be an official move.

More Liners Are Idle
New York, Feb. 12.—Two more American liners will be at their piers today to lay idle until conditions in Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare are better.

The New York was due to dock during the day. The Kenwood arrived yesterday. Both came from Liverpool.

While officials of the American line are holding back the action which will send their ships unprotected into the danger zone, another American freighter, the Owego, has gone out to brave the terrors of the submarine zone.

The Owego, a 2,216 ton ship is on her way to Genoa. She carries a general cargo of 2,500 tons, sent out by the Federal line, her owners, Captain Hatfield, her master, and two thirds of his crew.

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FIGHT FOR DOGS ENLIVENED HOUSE THIS MORNING

Representative Al Jones' Bill to License Dogs Causes It

REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS HAS MEASURE KILLED

Parole Officer Bill Is Recalled by Senate This Morning After Fight

A lively dog fight, or preferably, a fight on dogs, enlivened the session of the house of representatives this morning during its hour and a half period of work. Four bills were passed, two killed on final vote, and one strangled by indefinite postponement.

The dog fight resulted when Al Jones' bill to license dogs in the counties west of the Cascade mountains and creating a fund for stock killed by them. As the coast counties wished to be exempt from this provision on account of being a timbered country and dogs were needed, Representative Jones moved that the house go into a committee of the whole to consider amendments to the bill providing that certain coast counties be exempted from the dog license. The house went into a committee of the whole and immediately representatives of various counties in the valley wished to have their counties exempted until the exemptions became so general there was danger of leaving the bill apply to Marion county only.

Sevour Jones objected to the valley counties being exempted and he was backed up by Speaker Stanford, Representatives Griggs, Clark and Bean. Representative Bean stated that this kind of legislation had been before the legislature for several sessions and that the valley counties needed. In Lane county, he said the sheep raising industry had been practically ruined by dogs and the herds have practically vanished. The farmers demanded protection for their herds from the dogs. The bill times to restrain the curs who have no home or owners. The coast counties are heavily timbered and should be exempted.

Representative Lafferty favored the bill and Representative Cartmull urged that the measure be not treated lightly. He declared the people want a stringent dog law. Eastern Oregon was exempted because dogs there are needed in caring for the sheep.

Before the committee of the whole rose to report, the counties of Polk, Washington and Clackamas, which asked exemption, were included in the bill, which on final vote passed.

Lewis' Bill Killed.
The "electric juggernaut" flattered out Representative Lewis this morning when his bill to prevent the payment of more than twice the assessed valuation in purchase of property for public purposes was killed. The members declared it was a foolish and vicious measure and cast serious reflection on the honesty of public officials. Mr. Lewis declared that he knew men who had sold property to the public and had enough money to buy a four-story building.

House bill No. 194, by Martin, limiting the salaries of the president and professors of the O. A. C. to \$5,000 a year, was also flattered by the electric juggernaut. The bill was declared foolish in that it tied the hands of the regents of the institution in securing competent heads of institutions. As there was a long calendar, Corbett moved the previous question and shut off debate. The bill failed to pass.

The first bill up this morning was house bill No. 126, by Childs, adjusting the salary of the state printer and providing for the appointment of the state printing board. With a few explanations by the author, it passed.

House bill No. 126, by Tichenor, fixing boundaries of all counties bordering on the Pacific ocean, passed.

House bill No. 327, by Porter, providing sanitary containers for milk and ice cream, passed.

A resolution was introduced and adopted prohibiting people without authority going on the floor of the house during the session. The resolution directed that the sergeant-at-arms under the

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THE WEATHER

ISN'T THAT A PEACH

Oregon: Tonight and Tuesday fair; colder tonight; winds mostly northerly.